

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-12 are pending in the present application, Claims 6 and 10 having been amended, and Claim 12 having been added. Support for new Claim 12 is found, for example, in Fig. 5 and the corresponding description in the specification.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 6, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Staudinger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,416,356, herein “Staudinger”); and Claims 6, 8, and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Shitara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,078, herein “Shitara”).

Applicants thank the Supervisory Examiner Lee for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants’ representative on May 10, 2006. During the interview, the differences between the claims and the applied art were discussed. Further, clarifying claim amendments, similar to those presented herewith, were also discussed. Examiner Lee indicated he would further review the amended claims in view of a filed response. Arguments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

During the interview, Examiner Lee indicated that the proposed claim amendments might render Claim 6 to not be generic because amended Claim 6 does not read on Figure 10. However, Applicants note that the specification specifically discloses in the paragraph bridging pages 20 and 21 that the device of Figure 10 is illustrated only for comparison purposes. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 6 is generic.

Applicants note an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed on October 11, 2006, which at this time has been only partially indicated as considered. Specifically, on the PTO-1449 form attached to the outstanding Office Action, references AA and AB are not

initialized as considered. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to initialize as considered all the references listed on the PTO-1449 form filed with the IDS.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 6 and 10 have been amended to better comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 6, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Staudinger, independent Claim 6 has been amended to recite that a shield includes a plurality of components with the plural components extending in corresponding plural planes. The claim amendments find support in Figure 3 and its corresponding description in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Briefly recapitulating, amended Claim 6 is directed to a semiconductor device that includes, *inter alia*, a shield that includes a plurality of components with the plural components extending in corresponding plural planes. In a non-limiting example, Figure 3 shows the substrate 10 and the shield having the components 6a-6d extending in corresponding plural planes.

Turning to the applied art, Staudinger shows an integrated circuit having passive circuit elements among which an inductor 21 is surrounded by a layer of conductive material 42. However, as shown in Figure 2 of Staudinger, the inductor 21 and the conductive layer 42 are formed in the same interconnection layer and the conductive layer 42 does not include plural components extending in corresponding plural planes as required by amended Claim 6.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 6 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Staudinger.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 6, 8, and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Shitara, Claim 10 has been amended similar to Claim 6 to recite that a shield includes plural components that extend in corresponding plural planes.

Shitara shows in Figure 1 an inductance element and a semiconductor device formed such that the inductance element 1 is bordered by a ring 9 (impurity region). However, as shown in more details in Figures 2 and 4 of Shitara, the impurity region 9 extends in only one plane (defined by substrate 4) and not in corresponding plural planes as required by amended Claims 6 and 10.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 6 and 10 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Shitara.

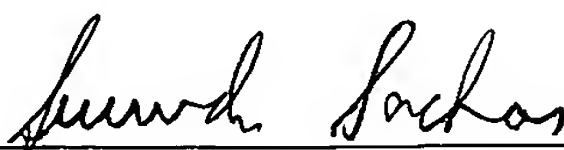
Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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